

# Wanstead Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT


OF

## MEDICAL OFFICER.

1906.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

## Wanstead Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1906, and if in so doing I am apparently treading upon old ground, it is because I believe that the Report is not only read by Members of the Council, but by others who are interested in the welfare of the Parish.

The Urban District of Wanstead has an area of about 1,740 acres, exclusive of that which is covered by water. About 100 acres is meadow land, below flood water level. The soil is partly gravel and partly clay. There are no factories. The sewage is entirely domestic, and the system is partly separate. The area of the Sewage Farm is about 45 acres, but only about 13 acres are being used at the present time. Speaking briefly, then, there are rough screening tanks, large septic tanks (in duplicate), set of six high level ærobic filters, large areas of under-drained irrigation beds, and a storm streaming filter. The condition of the river Roding, which receives the effluent here, has, I believe, been spoken of by the County Medical Officer of Health, as bearing a very favourable comparison with the water both above and below.

**THE HOUSE PROPERTY** in Wanstead is good, and that for the Cottage class is sufficient for the present requirements of the district. There are no common lodging houses.

**THE SCHOOLS.**—I have made a systematic examination of the National Schools, and will summarize some suggested improvements, which I now intend to send to the Managers.

1. That the floors of the different class-rooms should be thoroughly washed with Sanitas soap, or its equal, every

fortnight, and not as heretofore every 4 or 5 weeks; and that the desks should be washed at least every 3 months—for it must be borne in mind that the class-rooms are in ever constant use—at day and night, and I cannot too forcibly impress this upon the Managers.

2. That the air of the class-rooms should be purified both morning and evening, by opening some of the upper and lower windows so as to produce a current of air.
3. That the existing Tobin ventilators should be used when possible.
4. That more adequate receptacles should be provided for collecting refuse—for at the present time the means are very defective.
5. That the dripping pipe in the boys' latrines should be in more constant use.
6. That in all the class-rooms where Technical Education Classes meet, there should be placed large printed placards in prominent positions, with the words "*Please do not Spit.*" This would apply equally to the class-room where the shooting gallery exists.
7. That when children are excluded from School in consequence of "*Ringworm,*" medical attendance should be made compulsory; otherwise children might be kept from School for a year or more through parents neglecting their duty.
8. That children, and others, coming from infected houses, should be excluded from School, until a Medical Certificate has been given.
9. That in all matters of doubt the Teachers should apply to me for guidance as in the past.

I have not attempted to make any comment here on the condition of the boys' playground, as this is doubtless already occupying the thoughtful consideration of the Managers.

**THE WATER SUPPLY** was good and came direct from the main.

**THE DRAINAGE** also was satisfactory.



In February and March there was an epidemic of Mumps amongst the children of the Schools, and on February 23rd 111 were absent in consequence. As I was requested to make a report to the Managers, I then stated in writing that the outbreak had nothing to do with sanitation—that it was purely of seasonal origin. The Schools were not closed, neither did I suggest that it would be advisable.

The population of the district at the last Census in March, 1901, was 8,303; the estimated population to the middle of 1906 was 10,580, exclusive of 895 in the two large orphanages. The number of inhabited houses was then 2,116, and 155 uninhabited. Upon the assumption that 5 per house is correct, I base my calculation. At Christmas 1906, there were 2,204 inhabited houses, and 198 uninhabited; 163 new houses were completed during the year, and 244 were sanctioned. There has been of late rather a large development of property, chiefly on the George Lane, Cambridge Park, and Aldersbrook Estates.

The registered number of births was 203 (viz., 100 males and 103 females, 4 illegitimate). The birth rate was 19·1 as compared with the average of 20·5 in the 10 years preceding.

The registered number of deaths was 69 (viz., 35 males and 34 females) + 3 West Ham Union, + 2 Walthamstow Hospital, + 1 London Hospital, + 1 Middlesex County Asylum, = therefore to a death rate of 7·18. The average for the 10 preceding years was 10·3. The natural increase of births over deaths was 127—equal, therefore, to a little over 1 per cent. of the population.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The total number of deaths under 1 year was 14. As there were 203 births registered during the year, the infant mortality was equivalent to 68·9 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the 10 preceding years was 101.

**INQUESTS.**—Two only were held; one of which was on a case of suicide in Beechwood. I made a short report upon some suggested improvements at the Mortuary, which were afterwards adopted.

# ZYMOTIC DISEASE, *vide* Table III.

The death rate per 1,000 from the seven principal Zymotic diseases was '037.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Varicella.
Royal Merchant Seamen's Orphanage ... ..	—	—	—	7
Infant Orphans' Asylum ...	22	1	—	7
Wanstead ... ..	6	85	3	9

**SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.**—The variation in the notification of these two diseases is somewhat remarkable.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
1905	33	27
1906	85 (Aug. 6 ; Oct. & Nov. 6 ; Dec. 50.) [ <i>Vide</i> Table III.]	6

In the last month there was a rapid wave of Scarlet Fever, not confined to Wanstead only. Influenza, which was prevalent in March, April and May, became very prevalent in December. There can be no question about this, that cases of mistaken Influenza were largely productive of the spread of Scarlet Fever ; so much so, that there were vague rumours of a new disease !—the existence of which, so far as I am aware, was fallacious. I could record many instances where, when the medical attendant diagnosed a case of Scarlet Fever, it was found that one or two more in the house were suffering from the same disease in a desquamating stage—some even going up to London daily. Acting on private information, I found that a milkman was delivering milk whilst desquamating ; but it was an act of ignorance on his part. In another case, a woman actually sent her servant to the doctor through the street whilst out full in Scarlet Fever, and I had it on the authority of the mistress herself that she knew it. Had it not been for *very exceptional circumstances*, I would have dealt



with this case in a summary manner. The disease existed but little among the poorer class. It being reported to me that some of the notified cases had attended the Aldersbrook Schools, I made a surprise visit, and examined 86 out of 114 on the books. There was not a trace of Scarlet Fever amongst them, and none were attending the School from notified houses.

**THE WANSTEAD HOSPITAL.**—Thirty-nine patients were admitted.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Wanstead ...	33	4
Leyton ...	1	1 (both private cases).

There were no deaths. The average duration of time that patients remained under treatment was, Scarlet Fever 43 days, Diphtheria 35 days. The latter were never discharged until negative swabs were obtained with certainty. The Scarlet Fever wards were empty from July 13th to the 25th, and the Diphtheria wards from February 10th to April 9th, May 30th to August 15th, September 15th to November 21st.

Second Nurse on duty from Dec. 21st, 1905, to Feb. 10th, 1906.

April 9th, 1906, to May 31st, 1906.

Dec. 6th, 1906, to Feb. 1st, 1907.

There can be no question as to the value of this Hospital to the district. When patients had been removed from their homes and the rooms which they had occupied had been disinfected, it but *rarely* happened that another case of fever occurred in the house.

**DISINFECTION.**—This takes place at once upon the removal of a patient to the Hospital, and at the earliest possible moment in private houses upon the receipt of a certificate of convalescence from the medical attendant. There are to be found, here and there, some householders who are very exacting, even requiring the disinfection to be done on a given day or hour, as though they alone existed. In times of epidemic it becomes a severe test on the administrative capacity of the Sanitary Department, more especially as up to the present time the Ambulance is maintained outside the district.

**MILK SUPPLY.**—There are three dairies and eight purveyors of milk in the district, a register of which is kept. Part of the milk is obtained from home-fed cows, the rest is imported. The milk, according to the Report of the Public Analyst, was of good quality.

**INSPECTIONS** of dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses and slaughter-houses were made by the Sanitary Officer at least once a month. There are two workshops and three laundries, which also were periodically inspected. They have always been found clean and in a sanitary condition.

**SCAVENGING.**—This is done by contract. The collection is made weekly in open carts. The refuse is conveyed to the outlying brickfields.

**THE WATER SUPPLY** comes in part from the deep chalk well at Wanstead, and in part from the impounding reservoirs, which is pumped from the Lea Bridge Pumping Station.

The Cab Stand near the Drinking Fountain, upon which I reported in January last year, still remains in an insalubrious state.

The general sanitary condition of the district was most satisfactory.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

**FRANK ARGLES.**

*March, 1907.*

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TABLE I.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.						TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.							Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*							
1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1896	7,450	135	18.1	13	96.2	71	9.6	—	—	—	—	—		
1897	7,700	149	23.2	17	114.0	95	14.8	—	—	—	—	—		
1898	7,950	160	20.1	26	110.4	95	11.32	—	—	—	—	—		
1899	8,161	187	22.91	32	170.9	112	13.72	—	—	—	—	—		
1900	8,372	173	20.66	15	86.6	73	8.71	—	—	—	—	—		
1901	8,417	189	22.4	18	95.3	76	9.02	—	—	—	—	—		
1902	8,605	177	20.56	18	101.6	79	9.37	—	—	1	77	8.94		
1903	8,818	167	18.93	15	89.8	102	11.56	1	1	4	99	11.22		
1904	9,550	203	21.25	19	93.5	85	8.90	3	3	7	89	9.31		
1905	10,025	180	17.95	11	61.1	71	7.08	5	2	11	81	8.0		
Averages for years 1896-1905	8,505	172	20.5	18	101	85	10.3	—	—	—	—	—		
1906	10,580	203	19.1	14	68.9	69	6.5	—	—	7	76	7.18		

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).	...	...	...	...	...	8,303 (a)	At Census of 1901.
	...	...	...	...	...	1,681	
	...	...	...	...	...	5	
	...	...	...	...	...		

(a) Exclusive of Orphanages (895).

TABLE III.

## DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						ROYAL MERCHANTS SEAMEN'S ORPHAN ASYLUM.	INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.	ALMS HOUSES.	No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.								
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ..	6	...	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous } croup ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever...	85	...	14	52	13	6	...	1	...	...	15	10	5	...
Typhus fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Varicella ...	9	...	3	6	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	103	—	20	60	13	10	7	30	—	6	16	10	5	...

TABLE IV.

## DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						WANSTEAD FEVER HOSPITAL.	INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.	WALTHAMSTOW HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1—5.	5—15.	15—25.	25—65.	65 and Upwards.			
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	4	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ... ..	4	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	2	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant Disease ... ..	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	6	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	5	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases & accidents of parturition	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... ..	6	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...
Accidents ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Suicides ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
All other Causes ... ..	30	2	1	1	2	8	16	...	...	...
ALL CAUSES ... ..	76	14	3	3	2	26	28	...	...	...



TABLE V.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months  
under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	3	..	1	14
Certified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, all forms ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	4
	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	1	2	...	2	1	...	3	...	1	14

District (or sub-division) of Wanstead.

Population (estimated to middle of 1906) ... 10,580

Births in the year { legitimate ... 199  
illegitimate ... 4  
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ... 76

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 13  
illegitimate infants ... 1

# REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SUMMARY OF WORK

*Executed during the Year ended December 31st, 1906.*

	TOTAL NUMBER FOR YEAR.
Complaints received ... ..	32
Nuisances detected without complaint ...	6
Nuisances abated ... ..	The whole.
Notices served... ..	18
Cottages inspected ... ..	A large number, and the necessary works carried out.
Slaughter-houses inspected ... ..	The whole.
Bakehouses inspected ... ..	The whole.
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected ...	The whole.
Cowsheds inspected ... ..	The whole.
Workshops inspected ... ..	The whole.
Rooms disinfected ... ..	53
Houses connected with sewers ... ..	163
Houses connected with water mains ...	163

(Signed) ANDREW DUAN,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

